

50

THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT

NEW
TITLES!
FALL 2024

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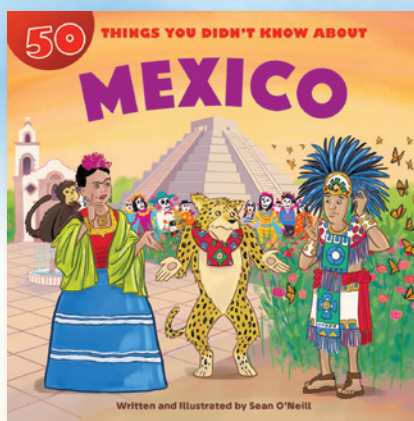
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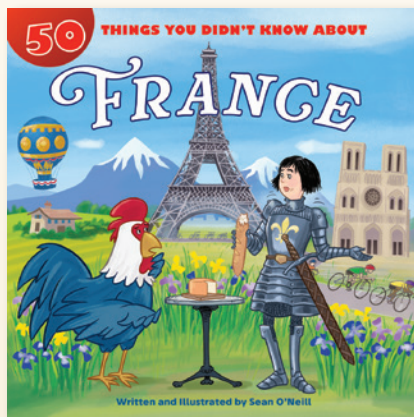


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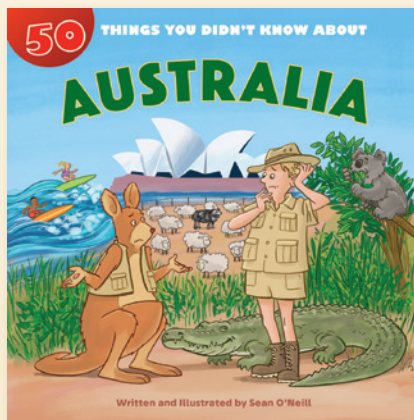
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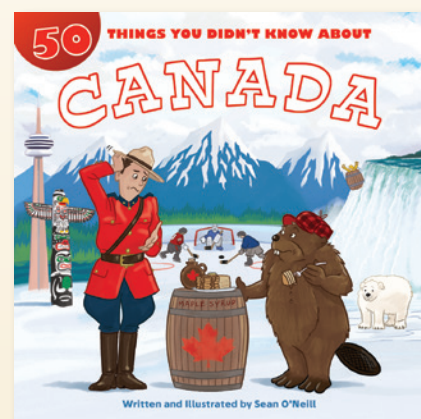
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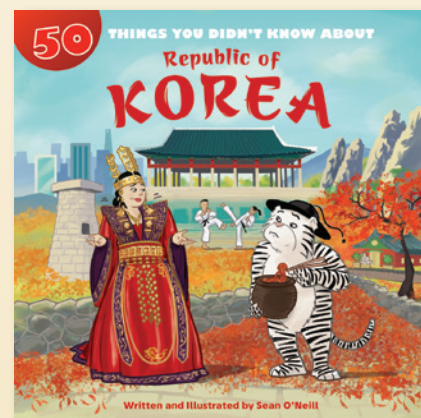
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HISTORY

9 In 1066, William the Conqueror from Normandy, in northern France, invaded England and became king. For the next 400 years northern France (including Paris) was officially part of England.

10 The Bayeux Tapestry, a 230-foot-long medieval artwork, tells the story of the Norman invasion of England with over 70 scenes of battle sewn into linen. It's one of the greatest pieces of **medieval** art and is nearly 1,000 years old.

11 In 1429 a seventeen-year-old girl named Joan of Arc convinced the French King Charles VII, to let her lead an army against the English. She commanded a force of 4,000 men to defeat the English at the city of Orléans.

12 Joan of Arc's victory was so inspiring to the French that the English feared her symbolic power and captured her and burnt her at the stake.

13 Joan of Arc is remembered as a great hero in France. Her victories and inspiration led to the final defeat of the English in 1453. This event is remembered by historians as the birth of the modern nation of France.




From France

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ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS



17 Ancient Maya were very knowledgeable about the movements of the stars and planets. They observed the planet Venus closely, and when they saw it in the sky, it was a sign to go to war. They called this a "star war."

18 Rubber trees grow throughout Mexico, and the Maya learned how to tap the sap from these trees and use it to make waterproof cloth, glue, and even rubber balls.

19 Another type of sap from a tree called the sapodilla was called *chicle* and turned rubbery when chewed. That's right—the Maya invented chewing gum! In fact, *chicle* from the Yucatán was used to make gum up until the 1940s.

20 The primary grain product in ancient Mexico was corn, or *maize*. The Aztecs and Maya used this to make everything from tortillas to popcorn.

21 Both the Maya and the Aztecs played a ball game called *tlachtli*. Teams of two or three players wearing headdresses and large belts would try to hit a rubber ball through a stone ring. Much like Roman gladiators, the losers were usually put to death.

From Mexico

CULTURE AND CUISINE

CHAPTER 5

CULTURE AND CUISINE



What could be more British than a cuppa, or a Shakespeare **sonnet**, and a mincemeat pie? British culture has given us many of our favorite characters, stories, and even a few new words. And even if jellied eels doesn't sound like your "cup of tea," maybe some of these facts will whet your appetite.

46 One of the most famous Brits in history is the great playwright William Shakespeare. Shakespeare added several new words to the English language in his plays and sonnets, including *gossip*, *zany*, and *alligator*.

47 Shakespeare died in 1616, and left this warning on his grave:

*Blest be the man that spares these stones
And curst be the man that moves my bones.*

So far, the curse has worked. His grave is exactly where he left it in Stratford-upon-Avon.

From Great Britain

TRADITIONS AND CULTURE


40 More important than a baby's first birthday is their *bagil* day, which marks their 100th day of life. In ancient times, many babies didn't live this long. Today almost all do, but it is still a cause for celebration.

41 On the child's actual first birthday, there is a celebration called *dol*. The child is placed before a table filled with different items. Whatever the birthday baby grabs first will predict their future.

42 At a Korean wedding, it is traditional for families to give newlyweds a pair of wooden ducks.

43 South Korea is home to many of the world's greatest cartoon animation studios. Episodes of *The Simpsons*, *Family Guy*, and *Phineas and Ferb* are all produced in Seoul.

44 In recent years, South Korean pop culture has taken the world by storm. K-pop music is hugely popular everywhere. The video for the 2011 hit song "Gangnam Style" has been viewed over 2 billion times online.

From Korea